

Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Advisory Regarding Border Guards' Day Celebrations
May 28, 2014

U.S. Consulate General Yekaterinburg informs U.S. citizens and family members that

Wednesday, 28 May 2014, marks the 96th anniversary of **Border Guards' Day** in Russia. The event will be celebrated in Yekaterinburg and throughout Russia. In Yekaterinburg, it is anticipated that some of the largest concentrations of celebrants of Border Guards' Day will be found in or around the area of Plotinka Bridge on the Iset River. Additionally, large celebrations are anticipated in Mayakovskovo Park. Participants will include current and ex-border guards who may be in states of partial or full uniform, to include: forest green hats or berets, blue and white striped shirts, singing patriotic songs, and toasting their legacy.

Although the majority of these gatherings are jovial and peaceful, past years have witnessed incidents of violence instigated by ultranationalists and directed against foreigners, particularly Central Asians and those from the Caucasus region. Large-scale brawls and other incidents of public disorder have also been reported during previous Border Guards' Day celebrations.

Please note the following guidance from the U.S. Department of State's [Country Specific Information for the Russian Federation](#): **"U.S. citizens should avoid all public demonstrations, whether properly authorized by local officials or not, and avoid any large crowds and public gatherings that lack enhanced security measures."**

U.S. citizens are reminded that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. Review your personal security plans, remain aware of your surroundings, including local events, and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

The U.S. government has received no specific threat against U.S. citizens or U.S. interests in Russia. However, all U.S. citizens considering travel within Russia should evaluate their personal security situation in light of current political tension and the possibility of violence or anti-U.S. actions directed against U.S. citizens or U.S. interests. The U.S. Embassy in Moscow also reminds U.S. citizens and

family members in Russia of the [Travel Alert](#) issued by the Department of State on March 14.

*We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Russia enroll in the Department of State's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you **do not** have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.*

Regularly monitor the [State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#), where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for Russia](#). For additional information, refer to [the "Traveler's Checklist"](#) on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for travel information at your fingertips.

The American Citizen Services Unit of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow assists U.S. citizens in Russia. We can help you with passport issuance and renewal, voter assistance, notarials, and registering a child born abroad. We also provide emergency services for U.S. citizens in case of a disaster or in case of illness, arrest, death or destitution while in Russia.

Appointments are required for all non-emergency services; you can make an appointment by calling the ACS unit at 7 (495) 728-5577, or you may click [here](#) to schedule an appointment online. To contact us with questions, please write to moscowwarden@state.gov or visit the [Embassy website](#).

Emergency Contact Information in Russia:

U.S. Embassy Moscow:

American Citizens with an emergency during regular office hours (M-F 9am-6pm, excluding Russian and U.S. holidays) are welcome to visit the ACS unit at the U.S. Embassy, 21 Novinsky Blvd., Moscow.

Tel: (7) (495) 728-5577 - 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, weekdays

For after-hours emergencies, call (7) (495) 728-5000 after 6:00 pm, and on weekends and holidays.

U.S. Consulate General St. Petersburg:

The U.S. Consulate General in St. Petersburg is located at 15 Furshatskaya Street,

Tel: (+7) (812) 331-2600. You may contact the Consulate's ACS unit by e-mail at

StPetersburgACS@State.gov, or by fax at (+7) (812) 331-2646, or visit the

[Consulate website](#).

For after-hours emergencies, call (812) 331-2600 and listen to the recorded message for the Duty Officer's cell phone number.

U.S. Consulate General Vladivostok:

Tel: (+7) (4232) 30-00-70

U.S. Consulate General Yekaterinburg:

Tel: (+7) (343) 379-30-01